

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 remain in the application for consideration of the Examiner.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and objections are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and following remarks.

The Examiner objected to Figure 9.

This objection is traversed.

The Examiner alleges that Figure 9 should be designated by the legend Prior Art.

However, the Examiner gives no reason why Figure 9 is Prior Art.

Figure 9 is not prior art.

Clarification is respectfully requested if this objection is maintained.

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Ueki in view of Yamamura.

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

It is respectfully submitted that Ueki does not disclose or suggest the presently claimed invention including a clamp circuit that clamps the bottom level of the received light signal and a calculation circuit that uses the time difference between the first reflection signal and the second reflection signal based on the clamp signal.

Applicants agree with the Examiner that Ueki does not disclose the clamp circuit and consequently could not disclose the clamp signal.

It is respectfully submitted that Yamamura does not disclose or suggest the presently claimed invention including the clamp circuit for clamping the bottom level and the calculation circuit that uses the time difference between the first reflection signal and the second reflection signal based on the clamp signal.

Yamamura discloses a clamp circuit for producing a DC output with its level corresponding to the detected amplitude level.

Yamamura does not disclose a calculation circuit that uses the time difference between the first reflection signal and the second reflection signal based on the clamp signal.

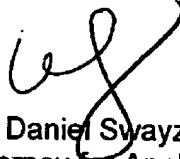
Consequently, Yamamura does not cure the deficiencies set forth above.

In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

While it is believed that the instant response places the application in condition for allowance, should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned in order to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions for an Extension of Time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any fees in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Texas Instruments Incorporated, Account No. 20-0668.

Respectfully submitted,



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